Hardships in acquiring driving licences in the country

*48. SHRI RAM SINGH RATHWA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that people are facing hardships in getting driving licences even for two wheelers in the country;

(b) whether Government are also aware that touts are flourishing at every Transport Authority Office in the country; and

(c) if so, what action Government are contemplating to reduce the hardships of driving licence seekers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Government are aware of reports that people are facing certain hardships in getting driving licences in the country. Government are also aware of reports of the unscrupulous activities of certain persons in and arround Transport Offices in the country. The State Governments who are primarily concerned with the matter have been apprised of the need to simplify procedures, open more Regional Transport Offices etc. with a view to reduce the hardships of driving licence seekers in the country.

National Waterways

*49. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the minimum requisites for declaring a waterway as National Waterway;

(b) whether the hydrographic survey and techno-economic studies of Godavari and Krishna rivers in Andhra Pradesh reveal the minimum requirements; and

(c) if so, what is the reason for the delay in declaring Godavari and Krishna as National Waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Declaration of a Waterway as a National Waterway depends on several factors like capability of navigation by mechanically propelled vessels of a reasonable size, availability of navigation channel of 45 m. width and 1.5 depth, connecting a vast and prosperous hinterland and major ports providing logistic support for national security, technical feasibility of providing an assured channel round the year, economic viability of operations, availability of financial resources for development of the waterway etc. The hydrographic surverys and techno-economic studies on Godavari and Krishna have revealed that these waterways pose many problems for development to the National Waterway standards.

National Highways in Karnataka

*50. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways in Karnataka remain at 1997 Kilometers since 1972;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government have been representing for declaring thirteen State Highways as National Highways; and

(c) if so, details thereof, and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.